

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action dated December 23, 2005.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Monson, and further in view of Klan et al. and Nye. In particular, the Examiner again opines that the Applicant's argument was not commensurate with the amendment to the claims. In response, the Applicant has amended the claims and believes that such perceived disparity has been resolved.

As now recited in newly amended claim 1, the present invention provides a removable processor enclosure apparatus for use in a gaming machine, the gaming machine having a housing defining an interior portion, CPU electrical components to perform gaming thereof, and a first electrical connector disposed in the interior portion. The enclosure apparatus includes an enclosure securably containing the CPU electrical components in an interior space thereof, and is adapted for sliding receipt in the interior portion of the gaming machine housing between a mounting condition and a removal condition. In the mounting condition, the enclosure is mounted to the gaming machine housing, and a second electrical connector of the enclosure is coupled to the first electrical connector of the housing. In the removal condition, removal of the enclosure from the housing is enabled. The enclosure apparatus further includes a door movably mounted between an opened position, allowing access to the interior space, and a closed position, preventing access to the interior space. Finally, the enclosure apparatus includes a lock mechanism having a primary lock assembly and an independently operable secondary lock assembly. The primary lock assembly includes a rotor member that selectively rotates about a rotor axis between a locked condition

and an unlocked condition. In the locked condition, the primary lock assembly locks the enclosure and the door together to lock the door in the closed position. By comparison, in an unlocked condition, the enclosure and the door are unlocked from one another to enable movement of the door to the opened position. The independently operable secondary lock assembly is separate from the primary lock assembly, and radially spaced-apart from the rotor axis. Further, the secondary lock assembly includes a latch device structured to selectively move between an unengaged condition and an engaged condition, to contact the primary lock assembly in the locked condition to prevent rotational movement of the rotor member to the unlocked condition.

Accordingly, a dual system of security is provided wherein the secondary lock assembly 135 is applied to reinforce the strength of the primary lock assembly 118 of the enclosure 25, from its spaced-apart distance. In accordance with the present invention, as shown in FIGURE 8, the secondary lock assembly 135 is separate from the primary lock assembly 118, and radially spaced-apart from the rotor axis of the rotor member 121. More particularly, the primary lock assembly operably rotates about the rotor axis of the rotor member, while the secondary lock assembly operably rotates about the secondary lock axis of the secondary lock assembly 135. As shown in FIGURE 8, the two axes of the two separate lock assemblies 118, 135 are also spaced-apart from one another, as well as substantially parallel thereto. Hence, use of the present inventive secondary lock assembly from a distance enables the application of a greater resistance force, via a longer moment arm of the latch device 136, against the rotor member of the primary lock assembly 118 to retain it in the locked condition. Moreover, damage to one lock assembly will likely not impair the operation or performance of the other lock assembly.

Neither Yamada nor Monson, alone or in combination, mention, suggest or imply any sort of independent, dual system of security, wherein the lock assemblies are anything other

than a secondary lock assembly built or existing within a primary lock assembly. In particular, the disclosure of Monson cited by the Examiner refers to a conventional pass device such as a combination dial or key and tumbler assembly (Col. 3, lines 39-46) that must be unlocked before permitting operation of the primary lock.

Such conventional pass device is not unlike that disclosed for each of the primary lock assembly 118, and for that of the secondary lock assembly 135 of the present invention. In each of these situations, a pass key device existing within the primary lock assembly and the secondary lock assembly is utilized that prevents operation of its respective lock assembly. As set forth in the present pending application at page 25, lines 9-16:

[A] lock barrel-type key or the like may be required before operation of a key head of the lock device 127 could commence. However, it should be understood that other types of keys may be used (e.g., a conventional toothed key or an electronic key application). Keys and keyholes are well known to those skilled in the art and for the sake of brevity will not be discussed in more detail. It should also be noted that the invention is not limited to keyed locks and that combination locks may also be used.

This implementation of a conventional pass device, however, does not obviate the incorporation of a secondary lock assembly that is separate and spaced-apart from the primary lock assembly, as the present invention suggests. Again, such use of the secondary lock assembly enables the application of a greater resistance force to retain it in the locked condition, via a longer moment arm of the latch device 136, against the rotor member of the primary lock assembly 118. In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims 14-20:

Regarding new claims 14-20, new independent claim 14 is generally incorporates the primary limitations of claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated as allowable. New independent Claim 18 the novel dual security system together with the aspects of removable

enclosure found in claims of the parent case.

Conclusion

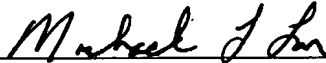
In light of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider this application with a view towards allowance. It is believed that all claims now pending fully and patentably define the subject invention over the cited art of record and are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael L. Louie at (510) 663-1100.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, including any extension fees, which may be required or credit any overpayment directly to the account of the undersigned, No. 50-0388 (Order No. IGT1P017D1).

Respectfully submitted,

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